



WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT...? "THE KING"

Philippians 2:5-11 &
Hebrews 4:14-16
December 28, 2014

Let Go Of His Divine Rights

Limited Himself

Lived as a Servant

Likeness of Humanity

- ✓ Lived With Us
- ✓ Listened to Us
- ✓ Labored with Us
- ✓ Lived a Perfect Life

Left Behind His Glory

Laid Down His Life

Lord of All

Lesson to Be Learned

He is Either a Liar, a Lunatic, or Lord

Our Response:

1. Would you accept the greatest gift you could ever receive this Christmas, the Gift of Eternal Life? Would you give Him your heart & life today? Remember it is as simple as **ABC!** **A**dmit to God you are a sinner, **A**sk for His forgiveness, **B**elieve Jesus is God's Son, **C**onfess Him as Savior & **C**ommit Your Life to Him as Lord. (the Boss of your life)
2. Have you asked Christ into your heart but never made it public. Have you not been baptized? You can come & make that decision today public today. He was willing to humble Himself and be obedient, will you?
3. Are you a part of a church family? If not, you need one! Is the Lord calling you to Petal FBC today? Why wait any longer? Step over the line and join us in reaching this community with the gospel of Jesus Christ! Help us tell others that the King has come and is coming again!
4. Would you share with someone else this week about our amazing King and invite them to ask Him to be their Savior and Lord.
5. May we spend some time this week reflecting on all that our King gave up for us that we might have life and have it more abundantly. May we be willing to give back to Him in a tangible way so that others can hear the great news of Christmas!

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT CHRISTMAS?

“What’s the Big Deal About THE KING?”

Philippians 2:5-11 & Hebrews 4:14-16

December 28, 2014 AM Worship

What do you think of when you talk about kings?

- ✓ They didn’t associate with the commoners
- ✓ They had a lavish lifestyle (wealthy) – never wanted for anything
- ✓ They had a palace that was fit for a king – they lived like kings while most other people lived ordinary or even poor and peasant lives.
- ✓ They ruled from throne and people bowed before him. They were afraid of the king many times.
- ✓ They wore a crown and ruled with a scepter
- ✓ They were famous and had great prestige
- ✓ They had incredible power – they could have whatever they wanted whenever they wanted. The kingdom was at their disposal. Their word and seal carried great weight and authority. They could take a man’s life or save it.
- ✓ They had incredible protection – with their armies
- ✓ They had servants to do their bidding - Everything and everyone was beneath him.
- ✓ They had people who willingly laid down their life for him – the king.
Yet here our King lays down everything for us, even his very life.

Yet that’s not what we see here! He didn’t do the normal things that a king would do and what most would not expect Him to do. It really almost seems absurd. Compare them as we think back to the list that we just made.

Let Go Of His Divine Rights Vs 6 “Though He was God, He did not demand and cling to His rights as God.” (NLT)

We live in a world that makes a lot of demands, and we make demands as well of others. I have this right, I am due this, I have this privilege, I am due certain things and rights. We often love to hold onto to our far too often! Yet we see Christ in coming to this earth as a baby giving up everything. He didn’t cling to it, hold onto what was rightfully His. He never used His power or rights to miss any part of humanity, but

experienced it all even that of a helpless baby! How much more so should we do the same? This is a hard thing for most to do! **ILLUS: Reporter interviewing a job counselor – Weirsbe**

Limited Himself Vs 7 but emptied Himself Helpless baby
“He made Himself nothing” (NLT)

One important thing to note, He did not empty Himself of His divinity. He was fully God and at the same time fully man.

He wasn't concerned of making something of himself, but nothing.

He emptied Himself of the glories of Heaven, the worship, the splendor, the majesty, and His rank, rights, and privileges and came to this earth as a newborn baby born to a young teenage virgin by the name of Mary in a poor town of Bethlehem!

What's more, He gave up the most important thing, His face to face relationship with the Father.

Too often we are so concerned about making something of ourselves. We would do good to follow in the words of John the Baptist, “He must increase, and I must decrease.” May his tribe increase!

Lived as a Servant Vs 7

“He took the humble position of a slave.” (NLT)

On this earth, He lived that of a servant and certainly not a King! We just talked about a few weeks ago of Him washing the feet of His disciples.

Jesus said about Himself, that I came not to be served, but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many!” The Son of God becomes a servant!

Notice too, He became a servant, not pretended to be one. Not just going on a mission trip one time, or doing some charitable act, but living the life of a servant. Far too often we are willing to serve but only if our schedule allows it, or is something I really like or doesn't cost a whole lot. Service that costs us nothing isn't really worth anything!

ILLUS: Hymn: “Take My Life and Let It Be”

Likeness of Humanity Vs 7-8 & Hebrews & John 1

“He became like a man and appeared in human likeness” (TEV)

✓ **Lived With Us** He came to this earth, born of a virgin as He took the flesh and bones of a human. He didn't just talk about it, He actually came and lived among us! Thus Emmanuel, God with us!

- ✓ **Listened to Us** He not only lived with us, but He listened to us, He shared with us, He taught us, and He loved us.
- ✓ **Labored with Us** (therefore understands us and our weakness)
Hebrews 4:14-16 He completely understands what it is like to live on planet earth, to sweat, to have emotions we have, to see the world as we see it, to smell death, disease, and poverty. He was with us! He didn't stay in heaven, but came so He can say, I am a high priest, but I am not removed from you.
ILLUS: Seminary Professor Many times out can be out of touch!
- ✓ **Lived a Perfect Life** Not only did He live among us, but He faced our greatest foe, temptation and sin, and He defeated them both so that we could know that we could do the same. Now we can live a perfect life, but He gave us a model to follow.

Left Behind His Glory (Humility) **Vs 8** “**He humbled Himself**” (NIV)
 Can there be anything more humbling than that of a baby, can do nothing for Himself. The God of the universe humbled Himself so far to demonstrate His love that He became a baby who depended on two imperfect humans to provide for His every need! This is what we need far more than anything else – and so much what our world needs too! We are far too proud of a people living in a proud nation and what Christ is looking for is those who are humble like Him!

“In the same way, you younger men must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you, serve each other in humility, for "God opposes the proud but favors the humble." So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor.

1 Peter 5:5-7 (NLT)

Laid Down His Life Vs 8

“Instead He lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death – and the worst kind of death at that: a crucifixion” (The Message)
 He went the distance and we will talk more about that next Sunday, but suffice it to say here, He went all the way to show His love and gave His life for us! He went willingly and gave everything! It was His choice – He said no one takes my life, I willingly lay it down! He was obedient to the call of God on His life. Are we? Our obedience clearly demonstrates

our love for the Lord! He showed not only His love for the Father but His love for us too! It cost Christ everything – why should it not be costly to us? Jesus gave it all up because He would rather die than live without us!

QUOTE: Weirsbe “Many people are willing to serve others if it does not cost them anything. But if there is a price to pay, they suddenly lose interest. His was not the death of a martyr but the death of a Savior. He willingly laid down His life for the sins of the world.”

ILLUS: Dr. J. H. Jowett has said, "Ministry that costs nothing accomplishes nothing." If there is to be any blessing, there must be some "bleeding." At a religious festival in Brazil, a missionary was going from booth to booth, examining the wares. He saw a sign above one booth. "Cheap Crosses." He thought to himself, "That's what many Christians are looking for these days - cheap crosses. My Lord's cross was not cheap. Why should mine be?"

Lord of All Vs 9-11

We get to see the end of the Christmas story, the cross, and the resurrection right here in this chapter. We see the end, that one day He will return and claim what is already His once again. Although He came as a servant King, this time He will come as a reigning King. And every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that He Lord!

The Lesson: What do you do with this kind of King? You have to do something with Him. Ok I know the world tries to ignore Him, or worse in our generation try to remove Him from the public square but that still changes nothing for Christmas is still about Jesus, His coming to this earth to save mankind.

Because of that, Josh McDowell offers He has to be one of three things.

Which is He to you? **Liar, Lunatic, or Lord**

Closing Illustration: Story of King and the Children – “What Kind of King”

What Kind of King?

Words by Randy Vader

Music by Jay Rouse

What kind of King would give up His throne,

Come for His people lost and alone?

What kind of King would give everything,

Save all His own and life to them bring?

Only a King who lays down His crown.

Only a King whose love knows no bounds.

Only a King who's willing to wear pauper's clothes,

For He knows He's not only a king.

What kind of King would leave all behind,

Come to a place where all He would find

Was rejection and loss, counting the cost,

Yet on His own He gave up His throne?

Only a King who lays down His crown.

Only a King whose love knows no bounds.

Only a King who's willing to wear pauper's clothes,

For He knows, only a King who lays down His crown.

Only a King whose love knows no bounds.

Only a King who's willing to wear pauper's clothes,

For He knows He's not only a king.

Only this King.

No other king.

O, no other, no other,

No other king.

No other king.